



MRS GULSTON, OF DERWENT.

Engraved by NEAVE, from a miniature by S. COOPER.

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LA BELLE ASSEMBLÉE,

FOR DECEMBER, 1830.

ILLUSTRATIVE MEMOIR OF MRS. GULSTON, OF DERWYDD.

DISTINGUISHED by extraordinary beauty, and not less an object of admiration from the graces of her mind than of her person—from the refinement of her taste, and the rich variety of her elegant accomplishments—we are most happy in the opportunity of introducing to the circle of LA BELLE ASSEMBLEE, the portrait of Mrs. Gulston, the lady of Joseph Gulston, Esq., of Derwydd.

Anna Maria Knowles (now Mrs. Gulston) is a descendant from the Earl of Banbury, son of Sir Francis Knowles, or Knollys, K.G., Treasurer of the Household to Queen Elizabeth.*

* This favoured statesman was born at Grays, in the county of Oxford. Having completed his education at college, he was introduced at court, and he became a zealous friend of the Reformation in the reign of Edward VI. He was thus a marked man; and, on the death of that amiable young monarch, he found it expedient to leave England. Mary having died, and Elizabeth having ascended the throne, Mr. Knowles returned, was appointed one of her Majesty's privy councillors, and Vice Chamberlain of the royal household. He rose high in the Queen's favour; was employed in many important affairs of state; and, amongst other appointments, he was one of the commissioners who sat in judgment on the unfortunate Mary, Queen of Scots. He was subsequently made Treasurer of the royal household, and created a Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Garter.

Sir Francis Knowles died in 1596. He was the author of *A Treatise against the Usurpation of Papal Bishops*, first printed, it is believed, in the year 1608; and of *A General Survey of the Isle of Wight*, which has never been published.

The earldom of Banbury, conferred upon the son of Sir Francis Knowles, or Knollys, became extinct in the year 1632. After the lapse of more than a century and a half, it was claimed by Lieutenant-General William Knollys; but,

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Joseph Gulston, Esq., is the grandson of the celebrated antiquary, Joseph Gulston, of Ealing Grove, in the county of Middlesex, Esq., one of the representatives, in three successive parliaments, of the ancient borough of Poole, in Dorsetshire; in the Town Hall of which is deposited an original portrait of Joseph Gulston, Esq., great grandfather of the present Joseph Gulston. He was forty-seven years M.P. for Poole.

Mr. Gulston was nephew and heir to the late Sir Thomas Stepney, of Lanelly, in the county of Carmarthen, Bart., and consequently a descendant of the great painter, Vandyke. Sir Thomas Stepney died in 1825, when the baronetcy became extinct.*

on the 9th of March, 1813, it was resolved, by the House of Lords, "that the petitioner had not made good his claim."

* The origin of this family is deduced by genealogists from Henry Stepney, Esq. of Aldenham, in Hertfordshire, who traced his descent from Henry VII. John Stepney, Esq. was created a Baronet in 1621. His grandson, Sir John, the third Baronet, married Justina, daughter and heir of Sir Anthony Vandyke, Knt., by whom he had a son, Thomas, his successor; and two daughters, nuns in a convent at Brussels. The latter became abbesses, and lived to a great age. Sir Thomas, the sixth Baronet, who married Elizabeth, daughter of — Vaughan, Esq., of Golden Grove, had, amongst other children, a daughter, Elizabeth Bridgetta, born in 1749, who was married to Joseph Gulston, of Ealing-Grove, in the county of Middlesex, Esq. Sir John, the seventh Baronet, was Envoy Extraordinary, in 1775, at the court of Dresden; and at Berlin, in 1782. He represented the town of Monmouth, in Parliament, at the general election of 1784. He was succeeded by his brother, Sir Thomas, the last Baronet, who died, without issue, in September, 1825.